DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Tuesday, November 18, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:44pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:50am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	31°C
Humidity	47%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan to continue reliance on all-rounders: Salman
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Lawyers' boycott of courts to continue today

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Following the Sindh Bar Council's (SBC) call, the legal fraternity boycotted judicial proceedings across the province on Monday in protest against the 27th Amendment and the alleged attack on lawyers by "private persons" during a lawyers' convention in Sukkur on Nov 15.

In its statement, the SBC condemned the "establishment and functioning of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) formed under the disputed 27th Constitutional Amendment, as it undermines the authority of the Supreme Court and weakens the constitutional structure."

The statutory regulatory body of lawyers in Sindh also condemned the "violent attack" on the lawyers' convention held in Sukkur by five alleged individuals.

The council had announced a complete strike or boycott of judicial proceedings across Sindh for Tuesday (today) over the disputed amendments and the functioning of the FCC.

However, it stated that "only urgent bail applications or extremely urgent matters shall proceed."

Following the SBC's announcement, the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) also observed a full-day strike on Monday, during which litigants were not allowed to enter the City Courts premises and proceedings were adjourned due to the boycott.

The KBA has stated that from Nov 18 to 22, "token strikes will be observed from 11am onwards".

In Hyderabad, lawyers boycotted court proceedings in civil, district and high courts on Monday in response to the SBC call.

A protest demonstration was also staged by a group of lawyers led by High Court Bar Association (HCBA) general secretary Israr Chang, former HDBA general secretary Faisal Mughal and others.

They sought an apology from Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari in the wake of attack on lawyers' convention in Sukkur.

They condemned registration of an FIR against Israr Chang for violation of Section 144 of the criminal procedure code by the Cantonment police after he participated in the Awami Tahreek's march in the city.

They said that lawyers have started their struggle against unconstitutional amendments in the constitution and they would take it to logical end.

PM promises revival of KCR with Sindh govt's help

- On CM Murad's request, Shehbaz assures inclusion of Karachi Circular Railway in CPEC
- Says federal govt to work with all provinces to extend railway network to Central Asia
- Inaugurates new Shalimar Express, upgraded CIP lounge at Cantt Station
- Praises Hanif Abbasi for modernising Pakistan Railways

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday that the federal government in collaboration with the Sindh government would revive the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), hoping the long-delayed project would soon become a reality.

He also promised to upgrade and modernise all railway stations across the province and the country.

He said that the digitisation and modernisation of Pakistan Railways and the provision of state-of-the-art facilities would play a key role in strengthening the national economy.

The prime minister expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new Shalimar Express and the newly upgraded waiting rooms, CIP lounge at Karachi Cantonment Railway Station.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and others were present on the occasion.

Responding to CM Shah's request to include the KCR project in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the prime minister assured full cooperation, calling it a vital initiative.

He said he had flagged the KCR project at every international forum and "we would jointly revive it as this project was inevitable for the people of Karachi".

He hoped this project would soon become a reality.

The PM said the Shalimar Express running between Karachi and Lahore has been converted into a new, upgraded train.

He described Karachi as not only the economic hub but also the heart of Pakistan.

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif inspects, alongside Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, the newly inaugurated Shalimar Express at a platform of the Cantonment Railway Station.—APP

'54 railway stations modernised'

The prime minister said that 54 railway stations had already been modernised.

He said that soon after assuming office, Railways Minister Abbasi worked diligently to modernise the railway system. "After revamping Lahore Railway Station, now Karachi Cantt Station has also been upgraded with contemporary facilities."

He said that all railway stations in Sindh would be modernised in coordination with the provincial government to ensure better travel facilities for the passengers.

He said like Sindh and Punjab, such coordination with the governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan should be evolved, which would ultimate make the railways the best transport system of this region.

He said the federal government would work with all provinces to extend the railway network to Central Asia, specifically highlighting the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway line project.

He reiterated that cooperation with all provincial governments would continue to ensure modernization across the railway network and help stabilise the economy.

He said the railway's freight system was also being organised.

The PM said the federal and Sindh governments hade a partnership to provide transportation for Thar Coal, with both governments investing 50 per cent each in the project.

He assured that all required funds would be released in this regard so that the set targets of the projects could be achieved.

He also emphasised reviving the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul rail route, saying this would boost the economy.

He noted that Mr Abbasi had initiated discussions with the Asian Development Bank for a $2 billion loan to further upgrade the railway line from Karachi to Rohri. He said that eventually it would be connected to the Reko Diq project.

Praising the services of Mr Abbasi, he said once all stations, big or small, are upgraded he would recommend a presidential award for him.

Calling him the hero of today's ceremony, he congratulated the minister for transforming the outdated railway system.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Mr Abbasi said that significant improvements were

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Clifton goes dry after excavator damages pipeline during digging

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: A large number of residents of Clifton have been facing an acute shortage of water since Sunday, with major parts of the area expected to remain without supply until at least Wednesday (tomorrow) due to the damage to a 24-inch supply line caused by an excavator at a nearby construction site for a residential plaza.

Residents said that the excavator operator accidentally damaged the water line at 3am on Sunday while digging at the construction site near Teen Talwar, causing the pipe to burst and submerge the nearby streets in water.

They said they were already facing water shortage due to low pressure and decades-old lines and the suspension of the already meager supply was causing them even more hardship.

The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said that the burst water line had disrupted supply to several Clifton areas, including Blocks 5, 7 and 9, Gulshan-i-Faisal, Shah Rasool Colony, Boat Basin and Shireen Jinnah Colony.

KWSC Chief Engineer Aftab Alam Chandio told *Dawn* that the water utility had mobilised resources to repair the damaged pipeline, with work expected to be completed by Tuesday.

He said that once the repairs were finished, water supply to the affected areas would be gradually restored, with services expected to return to normal by Wednesday.

The water utility said that the builder and contractor of the residential plaza would be held responsible for the costs associated with the repair work, and all expenses incurred during the repair process would be recovered from the parties involved in the project.

The abrupt disruption of the water supply in Clifton and its surrounding neighbourhoods caused immense inconvenience for residents, who woke up on Sunday morning to find their taps dry.

Many residents expressed frustration and disappointment, as the sudden water outage spoiled their holiday plans and left them scrambling to manage their daily routines, forcing them to look for alternative arrangements.

Drive launched to vaccinate 8.9m children against measles-rubella and polio

Health Minister Pechuho calls on parents not to heed misinformation

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Monday launched the measles-rubella (MR) and oral polio vaccine (OPV) vaccination campaign 2025.

The campaign will continue across the province till Nov 29.

Under this campaign, around 8.2 million children aged between six months to five years will be vaccinated against measles and rubella free of cost.

The campaign will cover 1,190 union councils across Sindh, where vaccination teams will visit homes, schools, and health facilities to ensure maximum coverage.

Simultaneously, 23 high-risk districts for Polio will also conduct OPV administration targeting 8.4 million children aged 0 to 59 months.

The drive is being regarded as a vital step to protect children from preventable diseases such as measles, rubella and polio.

According to the Expanded Programme for Immunisation Sindh, the core objective of the campaign is to strengthen children's immunity and improve overall vaccination coverage across the province.

The Sindh Information Department is also playing an active role in the success of this campaign by running extensive awareness initiatives through print and electronic media, encouraging parents to bring their children for vaccination.

Parents urged to ensure booster doses for their children

The drive was inaugurated by Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho at a ceremony held at Ida Rieu School & College for the Blind and Deaf.

Speaking on the occasion, she urged parents not to pay attention to misinformation circulating on social media and to ensure their children receive booster doses on time.

She also appealed to media representatives and media houses to contribute positively towards public awareness.

The health minister administered polio drops and booster doses to children and distributed gifts among them.

The government of Sindh has urged parents to actively participate in the vaccination campaign to protect children from life-threatening yet preventable diseases.

Teacher dies, another hurt as car hits their scooty

KARACHI: A schoolteacher was killed and another injured when a car hit their scooty near the Superhighway on Monday morning, police and rescue services officials said.

Gadap City SHO Sarfaraz Jatoi told *Dawn* that Sumaira Hakim, 32, and Rabia Naz Shahid Ali, 37, were heading towards their school when a fast-moving car hit their scooty near Dumba Goth on the Superhighway (now Motorway-9).

They sustained critical injuries and were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced Ms Hakim dead on arrival while Ms Naz was admitted for treatment, he added.

The police have arrested the driver, identified as Kashif Aziz, and impounded the car.—Staff Reporter

SC urges legislation for rehabilitation of 'miscarriage of justice' victims

- Bench details reasons for last month's acquittal of two brothers sentenced to death in 2005 PIDC bomb blast case
- Observes investigations into the act of terrorism did not meet 'most basic standards of fairness'
- Verdict was authored by Justice Athar Minallah who recently resigned over 27th Amendment

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Declaring that the investigations into the 2005 PIDC bomb blast has failed to meet even the most basic standards of fairness, the Supreme Court has asked the federal and provincial government to make laws for providing compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of "miscarriage of justice" and for the accountability of those responsible for their plight.

A three-judge SC bench comprising Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan gave this ruling in its detailed judgement on the appeals of two brothers who had been acquitted by the apex court through a short order in the PIDC bomb blast case.

The verdict was authored by Justice Minallah before he resigned as a judge of the apex court on Nov 13, criticising the newly passed 27th Amendment that has practically replaced the SC with the Federal Constitutional Court as the country's apex judicial platform.

Last month, the Supreme Court had allowed the appeals of Mangla Khan and his brother Abdul Aziz Khan against the death sentence handed down by an anti-terrorism court in May 2007 and maintained by the Sindh High Court in April 2020.

According to the prosecution, the appellants masterminded and carried out a bomb blast outside the PIDC building in November 2005 that had left four people dead and 21 others wounded.

The bench deplored that the prosecution had failed to secure and tender the most crucial CCTV footage of the crime scene prior to the detonation of the improvised explosives device and such omission had raised a strong inference that the prosecution had deliberately withheld crucial evidence which may have demonstrated the innocence of the appellants.

It noted that both the appellants appeared to have been made scapegoats and condemned to spend prime of their lives behind bars and such tragic suffering was an indictment of the criminal justice system and a grave breach of the state's duty of care towards its citizens.

"The respective governments may consider proposing legislation aimed at compensating, rehabilitating and assisting victims of miscarriage of justice and to hold public functionaries accountable when breach of duty on their part is established," it ruled.

The bench said that the testimonies of two star witnesses were not confidence inspiring, arrest of appellants also remained shrouded in mystery and the identification parade was also not worthy of reliance while confessional statements of both the brothers failed to meet the standard of voluntary confession.

It noted that the magistrate who had recorded these confessional statements did not adopt precautionary measures emphasised in various judgements of the apex court to ensure voluntariness. The delay and surrounding circumstances created serious doubt that confessions were made voluntary, it added.

It said another most significant aspect of the case that raised serious questions regarding integrity and fairness of the investigation was the failure of the investigating officer in securing CCTV footage from all cameras as the only footage he obtained was a recording by a camera installed in front of the PIDC House.

"It is not disputed that this camera was functional, however the evidence shows that obtained footage was limited only to the moment of explosion and subsequent destruction," it said and added that available evidence clearly suggested that the camera had recorded the entire sequence of events yet the IO offered no explanation as to why the entire footage was not obtained or preserved which could have shown presence of witnesses or perpetrators parking the car.

"This omission raises a strong inference that the prosecution had deliberately withheld crucial evidence which may have demonstrated the innocence of the appellants. Under Article 129 of the Order of 1984 an adverse inference can be drawn when evidence that exists and is available but is not produced at trial then if it had been produced it would not have supported the prosecution's case. The prosecution had withheld the best available evidence," it added.

The SC also expressed profound concern that the two appellants, who were young when apprehended, were compelled to endure over two-decade imprisonment despite the absence of evidence against them.

"The record reveals that the incident in question was a heinous act which claimed innocent lives, grievously injuring several citizens, and had also caused extensive damage to property. Yet, despite the gravity of the offence and the magnitude of its human and social cost, the investigation failed to meet even the most basic standards of fairness and diligence. No serious or meaningful efforts appears to have been made to trace or bring to justice the actual perpetrators of this atrocious crime. Instead, two young citizens, barely in their twenties and thirties, appear to have been made scapegoats and condemned to spend the prime of their lives behind bars," the verdict reads.

The bench observed that with the kind of evidence presented by the prosecution, "this matter should not have proceeded beyond the stage of the SHC as the trial itself and the subsequent appeal before SHC had consumed an inordinate amount of time".